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these can be most effectively furnished by mathematical societies. The new Spanish society has an unusually large amount of virgin soil, and the very rapid recent mathematical advances of Italy may inspire the hope that "nascitur non fit" may be applicable to this new society, and that it may have a healthy and rapid growth.

G. A. MILLER

*AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH IN GREAT BRITAIN*<sup>1</sup>

THE British Board of Agriculture and Fisheries has been in communication with the Development Commissioners with a view to the formulation of a scheme for the promotion of agricultural research and local investigations in England and Wales, and the treasury, on the recommendation of the commissioners, has sanctioned the allocation of funds to be distributed by the board in accordance with the general principles set out below. The total maximum sum which will be expended when the scheme is in full operation will be about £50,000 per annum.

The scheme provides for: (1) A system of agricultural research which will secure for each group of the problems affecting rural industry a share of attention roughly proportional to its economic importance. (2) The concentration of the scientific work on each group at one institution or at institutions working in combination. (3) Grants for special investigations for which provision may not otherwise be made. (4) The grant of scholarships with a view to the increase of the number of men fully qualified to undertake agricultural research. (5) The carrying out of investigations into problems of local importance, especially those involving the application of modern research to local practise, and the provision of scientific advice for farmers on important technical questions.

In making arrangements for the separate investigation, as far as possible, of each group of allied subjects the commissioners and the board have been impressed with the importance of securing continuity in work which is

<sup>1</sup> From the London *Times*.

necessarily of considerable duration, and at the same time of providing staffs of specialists and experts who will be permanently engaged on work arising from the investigation of the same group of problems. By this means concentration and economy of effort will be better secured than it would be if a number of institutions were dealing at the same time with the same group of problems.

It is neither desirable nor possible to prevent all overlapping or duplication of work, but it is obviously necessary to proceed on a plan by which research work subsidized from public funds will not be unnecessarily duplicated. It is also desirable to arrange that each problem shall be undertaken by the institution best fitted to deal with it, and usually by the institution which has specially devoted its attention to problems of an allied nature. It is also important to avoid the giving of undue attention to one part of the field of agricultural research, to the exclusion of other parts which are of equal scientific and economic importance.

With these considerations in view, it has been arranged that grants should be made for research in the following groups of subjects: (1) plant physiology; (2) plant pathology and mycology; (3) plant breeding; (4) fruit growing, including the practical treatment of plant diseases; (5) plant nutrition and soil problems; (6) animal nutrition; (7) animal breeding; (8) animal pathology; (9) dairying; (10) agricultural zoology; (11) economics of agriculture.

*THE AMERICAN MINING CONGRESS*

THE fourteenth annual session of the American Mining Congress will be held at the Hotel La Salle, Chicago, Ill., October 24, 25, 26, 27 and 28. The original intention was to have the convention September 26 to 29. President Taft, however, found it would be impossible for him to attend and there arose the possibility that neither Secretary Fisher nor Director Holmes, of the Bureau of Mines, would reach Chicago by that date. The Alaska branch of the congress asked for a